

<p style="text-align: center;">FACT SHEET <u>AB 416 (Assembly Member Block)</u> Developmental Services: Consumer Abuse Registry</p>
--

SUMMARY

AB 416 protects the developmentally disabled from abusive caregivers by creating a registry to track workers with substantiated claims of abuse.

PROBLEM

Abuse of the developmentally disabled population encompasses physical, sexual, verbal, and financial abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, abduction, isolation, and deprivation of needed goods and services.

Developmentally disabled persons face a higher risk of abuse because they are often segregated from the mainstream population and are heavily dependent on others for their basic needs. In California, over 220,000 individuals with developmental disabilities receive care in residential and day programs, independent and supported living, and at-home, private care. Sadly, these individuals are 2 to 5 times more likely to experience severe, long-lasting, and repeated abuse than the non-disabled.

Currently there is no available registry that would list all substantiated claims of abuse by caregivers for the developmentally disabled. Further complicating the situation is that prospective employers are prevented from accessing information about abusers. Without such knowledge, employers continue to hire abusive caregivers and the cycle continues.

SOLUTION

The bill directs the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish a registry of direct service workers, for whom reports of substantiated abuse have been submitted to the department by investigating agencies. The bill also: 1) requires providers to report cases of abuse to an investigating agency, 2) requires providers to access the registry prior to hiring or contracting with a direct service worker, and 3) prohibits the hiring or contracting of any direct service worker listed on the registry.

BACKGROUND

In California, registries are available for children and the elderly but are non-existent for individuals with developmental disabilities. This registry will address a critical need to protect people with developmental disabilities and the agencies that care for them statewide. It will also afford this population the same protection offered to other vulnerable populations in the state.

Eight other states have abuse registries protecting the developmentally disabled. They are Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Vermont.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Melissa Dye, Legislative Assistant
319-2078, Melissa.Dye@asm.ca.gov